himself, sends some representatives to look into the service conditions. On the involvement of child labout, there is an agitational movement going on it some of these countries and there is a strong public opinon in favour of that. I am not going into that aspect. But this is for the first time that an official team is coming. After all, the relationship between an exporter and an importer is different from the relationship between a buyer and a seller. Here, it is a question of relationship between the buyer and the seller. So, if they send their team to satisfy themselves as to whether the products which they are buying for their customers is up to the standard or not, that is one thing. But what is the rationale behind allowing the revenue officers and the customs officers of the United States to come and satisfy themselves? They may have a compulsion under their own domestic laws, but surely, we are not going to comply with their request to help them to overcóme the problems of their domestic growth. There is no international obligation..

So far as the international obligation is concerned, we have to fulfill that, and we have given our schedule about removal of child labour, what steps we are going to take to remove that. That is our commitment which we have given to the W.T.O. We have never agreed, India, till today, has never agreed to it that W.T.O. should have the right to determine the internaitonal labour standards. Therefore, the Minister should clear it out. Sir, as there is no time left, I think, if you agree, it would be a fit case to have a Half-an-Hour Discussion in which we can express our views and the Minister can come prepared.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give notice. We will see to it. Mr. Duraisamy.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: May I reply, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to have a discussion....(*interruptions*)...

MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: He can reply to it, Sir....(*interruptions*)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to say something?....(*interruptions*)... Mr. Duraisamy.

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Sir, I am not at all satisfied with the answer given by the Minister. We are having suitable and sufficient rules and regulations to prevent child labour, not only in factories, not only in industries, but also in domestic areas. The respective State Governments are also penalising those who are engaging child labour in our homes. Under these circumstances, it is not necessary for the Government to allow the foreigners to come and study the conditions of child labour. After knowing the sentiments of the House, will the Minister stop the foreign team from studying the conditions and save the sovereignty of India?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, the customs officers of the U.S. Government came here only to get the information.

I have already explained that ...(*interruptions*)....

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, the customs officials can get the information from the Embassy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up Power Trading Corporation

*204. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on setting up of Power Trading Corporation, as a joint venture of NTPC, NHPC, PGIC and PFC to undertake mega power projects;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether any task force is proposed to be constituted to watch the setting up and Commissioning of these mega projects within a time frame?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir,

the Government, under its revised mega power policy announced some time back, has decided to set up a Power Trading Corporation (PTC) with majority equity participation by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), along with National Theremal Power Corportation (NTPC), Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and other financial institutions. Concerned State Governments/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) would also be co-opted, if found feasible. The PTC would purchase power from the identified private mega projects and sell it to the concerned State Electricity Boards/distributors/ licencees.

(c) The Standing Independent Group, headed by Justice P.N. Bhagwati, Retired Chief Justice of India, is the apex body to oversee implementation of the private mega power projects. A task force has also been set up within the Ministry of Power headed by the Special Secretary (Power) for monitoring the progress made by the Private power projects including the private mega projects.

Seizure of Explosives/RDX

*205. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in southern States, especially in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, where explosives/RDX were seized duing 1998;

(b) the number of such seizures;

(c) the number of persons arrested in these cases; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that such explosives are not sumuggled into the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Based on the information available, the details are given in the statement. (*see* below)

(d) Government has taken several measures which include gearing up of the intelligence machinery, sharing of actionable intelligence, development of Para-military forces on need basis, intensification of Coastal Patrolling and adequate steps towards border fencing, etc. to curb infiltration and smuggling.

Statement

S. No.	State	No. of cases	No. of persons arrested	Qty. of RDX	Qty. of other Explosives
1.	Tamil Nadu	118	170	Nil	Gelatin Sticks-10539 Nos. Gelatin - 60 Kgs. Gelatin - 2 bags (Wt. not known) Other Explosive-1332.895 kgs Other Explosive-47 Boxes (Wt. not known)
2.	Andhra Pradesh	26	52	18 kgs	Gelatin Sticks-1383 Nos. Gelatin - 202 kgs Gelation - 2 Bags (Wt. not known). Other Explosive-100.5 kgs
3.	Kerala	15	14	Nil	Gelatin Sticks-8644 Nos. Gelatin - 4225 kgs Other Explosive-1817.5 kgs.

Non-Payment of Dues by DVB

*206. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Badarpur Thermal Power Station, which meets nearly 1/3rd electricity requirements of Delhi, if facing a crisis sparked of by non-payment of dues by the DVB;

(b) whether it is also a fact that non-payment